

minutes and then the left wing was raised vertically and fully extended. The sun could now beat on the bird's left flank and underwing. The other wing remained folded to the body. This posture was again retained for more than a minute before some disturbance sent the bird off. Sunbathing appears to be a regular habit among many birds, particularly with juveniles and it has been suggested that the separation of the feathers is to allow the sun to reach the naked skin and by irradiation to assist in the production of Vitamin D. (see *British Birds*, xl, pp. 172-174, and xli, pp. 304-305 for discussion and photographs of this habit for various European species). Vertical elevation of the wing to enable the sun to reach the flanks does not appear to have been recorded though it is probably a common practice.

—JOHN WARHAM, Leederville.

Wood Sandpipers at Lake Mungal.—In view of a recent review by K. A. Hindwood and A. R. McGill (*Emu*, vol. 53, pp. 1-13) of the Australian occurrences of the Wood Sandpiper (*Tringa glareola*), the presence of a pair of these birds at Lake Mungal, approximately 50 miles north of Perth, may be worth recording. The Sandpipers were first noted on December 5 and 6, 1953 and again, presumably the same pair, during a second visit on December 12 and 13, 1953. The birds were quite approachable and excellent views were obtained with x 6 binoculars and x 25 telescope. The characteristic features were the wholly white rump, noted both during flight and while the birds were preening, grey breasts, prominent white eyestripe, mottled backs and rather long legs. They were noticeably greyer than a Common Sandpiper (*T. hypoleucos*) feeding nearby, nor did they move their tails up and down as persistently as does this latter species. In these Wood Sandpipers tail wagging and head bobbing seemed to be indicative of slight uneasiness. On both occasions the birds were feeding on the same patch of mud where they also rested, bathed, and preened. When a hawk flew over flying high the Wood Sandpipers crouched low in the water with their bellies awash and the same flight-intention movement took place when they saw me emerge cautiously from cover.

—JOHN WARHAM, Leederville.

Protective Freezing by the White-fronted Chat.—The distraction display known as the "broken wing trick" is well known in the White-fronted Chat (*Epthianura albifrons*). This note reports another reaction to an enemy during the breeding season which may not be so well known.

On August 28, 1953, at a salt lake a few miles north of Kalannie, a pair of the above species were observed carrying food into a small samphire bush. After the female had entered the shrub on one occasion, I approached rather incautiously but the bird did not leave. She was observed from a distance of about two feet perched near the nest which contained four small

young. The bird remained perfectly motionless, with her head cocked to one side, watching me intently with her right eye for the several minutes I watched her. She was carrying a grasshopper nymph in her bill. The young were apparently not aware of the parent bird's presence for they made no acknowledgement of it.

As the bird was fully conscious during the time it was under observation and followed with her eye slight movements that I made, it is apparent that the behaviour observed was a case of protective freezing and not one of paralysis from fear. It is possible and even likely that this freezing reaction would have been followed by the "broken wing trick" had I moved closer or attempted to touch the bird.

—D. L. McINTOSH, Perth.

White-naped Honeyeater at University Grounds.—On October 1, 1953, an unusual call attracted my attention to a honeyeater at the University grounds, Nedlands. At the time a Red-tipped Pardalote's nest was being inspected, and from the jarrah canopy came a "clicking" sound, somewhat like the call of an agitated New Holland Honeyeater. A clear view was had of the birds which proved to be the White-naped Honeyeater (*Mclithreptus lunatus*). The black head, with a white band around the back of it, was noted. On calling it up to about six feet, by kissing the back of my hand, it was noticed that a small patch above the eye was conspicuously pure white. Apart from this colour, the bird tallied exactly with the description in Serventy and Whittell's *Handbook*.

In habit this bird differed from other honeyeaters in the University grounds. It was seen in a jarrah tree, hopping around the outer branches, in the manner of a Pardalote, stopping now and then to feed. The common local honeyeaters, the Brown and the New Holland, only use this tree as a resting place in flight.

—ERIC LINDGREN, Nedlands.

[The late O. H. Lipfert recorded the White-naped Honeyeater at Crawley during the 'nineties of the last century, it being abundant there and nesting freely (*The Emu*, vol 37, 1937, p. 133). Since those early observations the species has not been reported in the area until Mr. Lindgren's record.—Ed.]

Birds Dew Bathing.—The following records of apparent dew bathing may prove of interest. (a) Wooroloo. June 5, 1951. At about 0900 hrs. a Red Wattle-bird, *Anthochaera carunculata*, was observed making a considerable flutter among the extremities of branches, i.e. twigs too weak to support its weight. In all it visited several different branches in three different trees, the last a lemon-scented gum (*Eucalyptus citriodora*) where, after fluttering in one mass of leaves, the bird perched and preened, more or less confirming the impression that the bird had been bathing in the moisture that lay thick upon the leaves. The trees visited